

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claims 1-13. Canceled.

14. (Currently Amended) Continuous strip of containers ~~wherein: the~~ comprising:
a plurality of containers are distributed extending stepwise one after another ~~according to~~
along a longitudinal axis direction of the strip, so that corresponding points of two adjacent
containers ~~being~~ are separated by a step;

said strip of containers ~~has~~ having at least one longitudinal edge zone having a side from
which traction pins protrude laterally, said pins being intended to interact in use by contact with
an advancing device for advancing the strip;

said strip ~~comprises~~ comprising, for each of said traction pin ~~pins~~, at least one
corresponding opposing projection that protrudes from ~~the opposite side~~ a further side of the said
at least one longitudinal edge zone, said further side being opposite to said side;

wherein each said at least one corresponding opposing projection is arranged at a distance
from its relative traction pin along said longitudinal direction, said distance being shorter than
said step.

15. Canceled.

16. (Currently Amended) Strip according to claim ~~14~~14, wherein ~~the axial~~said distance ~~between the opposing projection, located further forward, and the relative traction pin, located further back,~~ is shorter than half said step between the containers.

17. (Currently Amended) Strip according to claim 14, wherein said strip comprises, for each container, said at least one traction pin and said at least one corresponding opposing projection.

18. (Previously Presented) Strip according to claim 14, wherein both said traction pins and said opposing projections, are distributed with a step that is equal to said step between the containers.

19. (Currently Amended) Strip according to claim 14, wherein ~~the~~said at least one longitudinal edge zone of said strip is configured in a sinuous manner ~~in such a way that the longitudinal edge zone alternates~~so as to alternate, with a step that is equal to said step between the containers, a full zone occupied by the material of said strip and an empty zone that is free of the material of said strip.

20. (Previously Presented) Strip according to claim 19, wherein each traction pin, and each relative opposing projection are both situated in the same full zone.

21. (Currently Amended) Strip according to claim 19, wherein each full zone has a traction pin and ~~the~~its relative opposing projection.

22. (Currently Amended) Method of advancing by means of an advancing device a strip of containers, ~~in which the~~ said strip comprising a plurality of containers are arranged one after another so that corresponding points of two adjacent containers are separated by a step according to a longitudinal axis of the strip, said strip having at least one longitudinal edge zone having a side from which traction pins protrude laterally traction pins, for each traction pin, at least one corresponding opposing projection being provided for each of said traction pins, each said at least one opposing projection protruding from the opposite a further side of the said at least one longitudinal edge zone is provided that is opposite to said side, said ~~being~~ traction pins being intended to interact in use by contact with said advancing device, wherein said advancing device comprises:

an advancing guide for advancing said strip extending in length according to an advancing direction that is parallel to the a longitudinal axis-direction of said strip, said advancing guide being defined laterally by two running surfaces that are parallel to each other and are provided to contain the said at least one longitudinal edge zone of said strip;

at least one dragging member prearranged to push the strip of the containers in said advancing direction forward, which said at least one dragging member is being movable in a direction parallel to the advancing direction and has having at least one or more thrust elements prearranged to interact by contact with the traction pins;

wherein said method comprises bringing a when one said traction pin into contact contacts with said at least one thrust element, making the opposing projection associated with the one said traction pin to interact by contact contacts with said a running surface of said two

running surfaces, facing the projection so as to oppose the ~~that~~ flexure of the strip of containers due to the action of the thrust element.

23. (Currently Amended) Method according to claim 22, wherein each opposing projection is located slightly forward, in relation to said advancing direction, compared with ~~the~~ its relative traction pin, at a distance that is not shorter than the width of said advancing guide.

24. (Currently Amended) Method according to claim 22, wherein the width of said advancing guide, ~~i.e.~~ defined by the distance between said two running surfaces, is substantially equal or slightly greater than the distance, considered in a direction that is perpendicular to the advancing direction, between the side ends of a traction pin and of the relative opposing projection.